

**ATA 2021 Abstract**  
Surge Telemedicine Coverage for ICU COVID-19 Patients

**INTRODUCTION:**

NuView Health provides on-site/telemedicine support to ICUs of various sizes and patient acuity. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused strain on ICU staffing. NuView developed a surge model of daytime telemedicine support for on-site Intensivist staff. We report the results of this model of care in two of our ICU programs.

**METHODS:**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the on-site Intensivist could activate telemedicine support depending on patient volume. The Intensivist would designate COVID-19 patients for telemedicine evaluation. The TeleIntensivist completed work rounds, MDR rounds, enter notes, orders in the EMR, and provide family discussion.

**RESULTS:**

During a 9-month period, there were 730 telemedicine encounters, 153 total patients seen, during daytime rounds. In hospital A, 456 encounters, 104 patients seen, 63% ventilated. In hospital B, 274 encounters, 49 patients seen, 59% ventilated. The average daily census seen was 5.2 patients, reducing the on-site intensivists daily tasks. Overall mortality rate for these patients was 30.7%. This was not significantly different than patients seen by the on-site Intensivist.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

Daytime surge telemedicine support provided significant reduction in workload for daytime intensivists during the COVID-19 pandemic. The TeleIntensivist provided comprehensive care for COVID-19 patients with outcomes not significantly different from those achieved by the on-site Intensivist.

**Authors:**

P. William Ludwig MD, FCCP  
Samir Peshimam, MD, MBA  
Ray Morales, MD  
Michael Marquez, FACHE  
Bryan M. Ludwig, MBA